

DOCKET FILE ORIGINAL

ORIGINAL  
RECEIVED

Before the  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20554

JAN - 3 1994

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

In the Matter of )

)  
)  
Amendment of Section 73.202(b),  
)  
Table of Allotments,  
)  
FM Broadcast Stations.  
)  
(Cal-Nev-Ari, Nevada) )

MM Docket No. 93-279  
RM-8368

To: Chief, Allocations Branch  
Audio Services Division  
Mass Media Bureau

COMMENTS OF RICHARD W. MYERS

1. These Comments are filed by Richard W. Myers in response to the Commission's Notice of Proposed Rule Making ("Notice") in the above-captioned proceeding, DA 93-1265, released November 12, 1993. Mr. Myers is the Petitioner in RM-8368. His Petition for Rule Making ("Petition") was the original request for the allotment of Channel 285A to be made to Cal-Nev-Ari.

2. Mr. Myers hereby reaffirms his interest in the proposed allotment and restates his intention to file an application for a construction permit if the proposed channel is allotted to Cal-Nev-Ari and, if his application is granted, to construct and operate an FM broadcast station on the channel.<sup>1/</sup>

3. The Petition noted that the proposed Channel 285A allotment meets Class B channel separations to all Mexican stations and allotments. Accordingly, Mr. Myers requested that the Commission notify the allotment to Mexico as a Class B

---

<sup>1/</sup> Mr. Myers's declaration under penalty of perjury was submitted as an exhibit to the Petition.

No. of Copies rec'd  
List ABCDE

024

allotment, so as to enable the Cal-Nev-Ari station to operate with the full 6 kW maximum available to domestic Class A stations located further than 320 km. from the Mexican border.<sup>2/</sup> This point was not mentioned in the Notice, so Mr. Myers wishes to remind the Commission of his request.

4. Mr. Myers very much appreciates the Commission's promptness in issuing the Notice, but he is taken somewhat aback by the Commission's preliminary view that Cal-Nev-Ari may not qualify as a "community" for licensing purposes.<sup>3/</sup> This issue was recognized and met head-on in the Petition. The strong reliance in the Notice and in other past cases on whether a location is a Census-Designated place or is politically incorporated is inappropriate, at least in this case. These references may be useful in some situations, but they discriminate against rural areas in the western states, where communities are just starting to develop. With all due respect, Mr. Myers submits that the Commission may be looking at his home state through the eyes of residents of the eastern part of the

---

<sup>2/</sup> Cal-Nev-Ari is located less than 199 km. from the Mexican border, so a domestic Class A allotment will be limited to 3 kW ERP unless the channel is classified as Class B in the notification to Mexico.

<sup>3/</sup> Mr. Myers agrees with the Commission's statement at Par. 4 of the Notice that Channel 285A can be allotted to Cal-Nev-Ari in compliance with the Commission's minimum distance separation requirements with a site restriction of 2.6 km. southeast, a restriction with which his proposed transmitter site complies. There appears to be no obstacle to making the allotment other than the question of Cal-Nev-Ari's status as a community. A subsequently filed conflicting rule making petition, which should not be an obstacle, is discussed infra.

country, where rural communities are less common, without recognizing the realities of life in the Nevada desert.<sup>4/</sup>

5. As pointed out in the Petition and recognized in the Notice, Cal-Nev-Ari is clearly not a segment of any larger community. It stands geographically alone; and to say that it is not a "community" is to relegate its residents to living "nowhere."<sup>5/</sup> There is no justification in Section 307(b) of the Communications Act for treating a rural desert community in that manner. Further, Mr. Myers explained in the Petition that despite Cal-Nev-Ari's small permanent population, there is a viable economic base for a radio station in the tourist population that visits the community and in and the significant highway traffic that passes by.<sup>6/</sup>

---

4/ Mr. Myers understands that U.S. Senator Harry Reid of Nevada has written to the Commission emphasizing the importance of taking into the account the rural nature of his state in evaluating the community status of smaller population groupings. The views of an elected federal public official who represents the residents of Cal-Nev-Ari must be given great weight in this proceeding. It should also be noted that Mr. Myers is a resident of Nevada and has petitioned for an allotment to Cal-Nev-Ari not as an absentee investor but as someone who has local knowledge of what he is doing.

5/ Clark County cannot be deemed the "relevant" community, because it stretches from the major city of Las Vegas some 70 miles to the north to the Arizona border to the south. Clark County is physically too large and encompasses too many diverse areas to be deemed a single community for any purpose, even if it provides some governmental services to the area within its borders.

6/ Notice, at footnote 2. Yermo and Mountain Pass, CA, 45 RR 2d 58 (1979), is especially relevant here. It is difficult, if not impossible, to distinguish between that case, where allotments were made, and the instant case, where the Notice suggests that an allotment might not be made.

6. After reading the Notice, Mr. Myers and his counsel again reviewed the cases on what constitutes a "community." They found no bright dividing line that denotes when a community will be found to exist.<sup>7/</sup> Six elements appear to be important in the cases involving communities that are neither incorporated nor separately listed in the U.S. Census:

a. A separate postmark. Cal-Nev-Ari has one; Petition at Exhibit B.

b. Receipts from local businesses that say "Cal-Nev-Ari." Cal-Nev-Ari has them; Petition at Exhibit B and Report discussed at Par. 7, infra.

c. Evidence that businesses are identified with and serve Cal-Nev-Ari and not some other community or larger area.<sup>8/</sup> The Petition again made that showing, as does the Report discussed at Par. 7.

d. Listing in the Rand McNally atlas. Rand McNally is listed; Petition at Exhibit A and Notice at footnote 3.

---

<sup>7/</sup> See, e.g., Cleveland and Ebenezer, MS, MM Docket No. 93-100, DA 93-1373, released December 13, 1993, where the Commission first found Ebenezer to be a qualified community and allotted a channel, only later on to change its mind and delete the Channel. The same happened in Searles Valley, CA, 3 FCC Rcd 5221 (1988). The Court of Appeals has made it clear that the Commission must have a rational explanation for its policies and must be able to explain each action taken under a policy. Bechtel v. FCC, \_\_\_ F.2d. \_\_\_, Case No. 92-1378 (D.C. Cir., decided December 17, 1993).

<sup>8/</sup> See Graham, WA, 7 FCC Rcd 1676 (MM Bur. 1992); Crestview, FL, 7 FCC Rcd 3059 (MM Bur. 1992).

e. Testimony of local residents that they "function and conceive of themselves as residents of a community, around which their interests coalesce."<sup>9/</sup>

7. To address the last element -- testimony of local residents -- Mr. Myers commissioned two highly qualified sociologists, Victoria J. Evans and Donald E. Carns, who were not previously familiar with Cal-Nev-Ari, to visit Cal-Nev-Ari and to interview residents to determine whether they function as a community. The report of Ms. Evans and Dr. Carns ("Report") is attached hereto as Exhibit A. This report establishes as clearly as humanly possible for a small, remote community that in fact a true community of interest exists among, and is recognized by, the citizens of Cal-Nev-Ari.

8. As noted in the Report, Cal-Nev-Ari was founded by an individual, E.G. Kidwell, with the express intent of establishing a community. The community is still small and new, but it does exist. Mr. Kidwell's widow continues to provide leadership, including some functions that normally would be carried out by a formal political government in a larger community.<sup>10/</sup> Several residents are quoted in the Report, and there is no doubt that they consider Cal-Nev-Ari to be a place of and by itself, clearly distinguished from, and in some ways a rival to, the nearest neighboring community of Searchlight. They consider Cal-Nev-Ari to be a cohesive community whose residents support one another in

---

<sup>9/</sup> Searles Valley, supra.

<sup>10/</sup> Report at p. 11.

many ways, they consider Cal-Nev-Ari to be their community of residence, and they came to Cal-Nev-Ari for a reason -- for the special quality of life in that community.<sup>11/</sup>

9. While Cal-Nev-Ari has only a few formal business establishments, it has community institutions. The residents include many emergency medical technicians, so the community provides its own emergency services. There is a memorial chapel -- the casino dining room serves that function.<sup>12/</sup> Indeed, the casino building serves as a business location and a social hall for many purposes. Construction of a community center is being considered.<sup>13/</sup> The residents of the community work together to support their common needs, such as construction of a fire house and raising money for public benefit activities.<sup>14/</sup>

10. If the test is what the residents of a community think, Cal-Nev-Ari certainly meets the test. The people there believe they are a community, separate and apart from any other; and they live, work and play together as a cohesive group. Two qualified experts have shown that there is a "common perception that [the] locality's populace constitutes a distinct geographical

---

<sup>11/</sup> Report at p. 9.

<sup>12/</sup> Id.

<sup>13/</sup> Id.

<sup>14/</sup> Report at p. 10.

population grouping."<sup>15/</sup> A United States Senator agrees.<sup>16/</sup> Based on these showings, Cal-Nev-Ari must be found to be a qualified community for licensing purposes, notwithstanding past cases which reached a contrary result for other small population groupings. Assuming, arguendo, that the past cases were all correctly decided, the showing made in this case is detailed and convincing -- likely much more so than in past cases -- and dictates that the outcome in this case be in favor of the petitioner.

11. Finally, Mr. Myers will briefly address a petition for rule making filed November 3, 1993, by Rock "N" Roll, Inc. ("KRRI"), licensee of KRRI(FM), Boulder City, Nevada, seeking to substitute Channel 286C2 for Channel 288C2 for KRRI at Boulder City and to substitute Channel 289C2 for Channel 286C2 for KRBO(FM) at Las Vegas, Nevada. Presumably that petition will be treated as a counterproposal in this proceeding. KRRI seeks to substitute a third-adjacent channel for a second-adjacent channel relationship between KRRI and KRBO to reduce or eliminate interference KRRI claims is occurring in the Las Vegas market that both stations attempt to serve (even though KRRI is licensed to Boulder City).

12. Mr. Myers respectfully submits that the KRRI petition must yield to his own proposal. Mr. Myers proposes a first local

---

<sup>15/</sup> Searles Valley, supra, quoting Mighty-Mac Broadcasting Co., 58 FCC Rcd. 599, 603 (1985).

<sup>16/</sup> Footnote 4, supra.

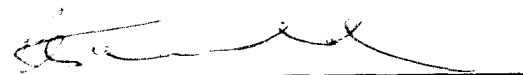
transmission service for Cal-Nev-Ari and the establishment of a new station. KRRI proposes no new local transmission service, no new station, and no increase in the coverage of any existing station.<sup>17/</sup> Since the transmitter sites of KRRI and KRBO meet the 58 km. mileage separation requirement in Section 73.207(b) of the Rules, both of those stations are receiving all of the protection to which they are entitled.<sup>18/</sup> They must work out their own problem; that problem is not a reason to deprive Cal-Nev-Ari of its first local station.

13. In light of the foregoing, Mr. Myers submits that Channel 285A should be allotted to Cal-Nev-Ari, as proposed in the Notice.

Arent, Fox, Kintner,  
Plotkin & Kahn  
1050 Connecticut Ave., N.W.  
Washington, DC 20036-5339  
(202) 857-6024

January 3, 1994

Respectfully submitted,

  
Peter Tannenwald

Counsel for Richard W. Myers

---

<sup>17/</sup> Thus Mr. Myers's proposal fulfills the third priority under FM Assignment Policies and Procedures, 90 FCC 2d 88 (1982), which is the establishment of a first local transmission service. The KRRI proposal can claim credit only under the lower fourth priority, other public interest matters. A new service prevails over even an upgrade of an existing service, let alone a same-grade channel exchange, under the policy announced in Benton Arkansas, 2 FCC Rcd 1963 (1987); 3 FCC Rcd 4840 (1988).

<sup>18/</sup> Section 73.209 of the Commission's Rules states clearly that protection from interference in the FM band is afforded solely by mileage separation requirements.



ORIGINAL

CAL-NEV-ARI, NEVADA

A Case Study of Community Development

December 13, 1993

University of Nevada, Las Vegas

by

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "V J Evans", written over a horizontal line.

Victoria J. Evans, A.B.D. Sociology

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Donald E Carns", written over a horizontal line.

Donald E. Carns, Ph.D. Sociology

## Executive Summary

Cal-Nev-Ari provides an excellent case study in the emergence and development of community because its brief history furnishes many records of what actually occurred when people first settled there. As the town grew, common needs made themselves known in the course of daily life.. needs that could only be met by cooperative action. This case study chronicles some of the issues and events that brought individuals together to solve problems and describes how the process of finding solutions created close bonds and community identity.

Methodology included on-site, in-depth interviews and more structured telephone interviews. These procedures are fully described in Appendices A and B on pages 13 and 14. Selected major findings follow.

Cal-Nev-Ari is located in a **limited geographical area**, one mile square. Even though this settlement is not a political entity in its own right, it has legal borders separating it from B.L.M. land on three sides and private land on the fourth side. This is a specific, unique place with physical boundaries that can easily be identified by both residents and passers-by.

Residents recognize and **identify with the physical features of the land** and its most important natural resource, water. This area is naturally distinguished from surrounding communities. The climate and the plants and animals are consciously perceived and acknowledged as belonging to the Cal-Nev-Ari life-style.

Cal-Nev-Arians **identify themselves as residents of a community** that is special and different from the surrounding communities. When asked where they live they do not mention Searchlight or other communities close by, they say "Cal-Nev-Ari." They are self-consciously aware of the existence of community. This community is, in fact, culturally distinct... its unique history and focus on aviation clearly differentiates it from nearby settlements and towns.

The residents of Cal-Nev-Ari realize that they **share common interests and have mutual needs** because they live near one another. There is a feeling of sharing common goals. They generally know each other personally and have developed a common understanding of the meaning and function of community in Cal-Nev-Ari. They are quick to express common sentiments and ideas about their community.

They **satisfy many needs and living requirements through a system of interdependent relationships**. They give help and support to each other. They share and have mutual cooperation with each other.

### Description

Approaching Cal-Nev-Ari on Interstate 95 heading south from Searchlight one first observes a U.S. Coast Guard Loran Station on the west side of the road. This facility is about a half a mile outside Cal-Nev-Ari. The settlement itself begins with a double row of mobile homes on the west side of the road behind which is the Kidwell Airport. A water tower sits alone in the north-west with bold lettering, "Cal-Nev-Ari, Nevada." Continuing south, the Cal-Nev-Ari Casino with the U.S. Post Office can be seen, then the gas station which is closed Wednesdays and Thursdays, a laundromat and more mobile homes. A large white Fire Station is set back from the road. Across from the Casino on the east side of the road is the Blue Sky Motel, the Cal-Nev-Ari Market and RV Park and the Cipra Ranch.

The community has a population of about 350 individuals and the only established businesses are those just mentioned (see Appendix C, Page 16), plus the Spirit Mountain Utility Company which provides water and sewer. These properties are owned by Ms. Nancy Kidwell who, together with her deceased husband, E.G. (Slim) Kidwell, founded Cal-Nev-Ari in 1965.

### History

E.G. Kidwell was a commercial pilot and an aviation pioneer.<sup>1</sup> One day while flying to California from Las Vegas he looked down and saw an abandoned air strip north of Needles, California. The desert runway he spotted had been built by General Patton to train troops for the African Corps in World War II. Kidwell was able to use the Pittman Homestead Act to acquire a section of land that included the runway. On March 17, 1963, he and his wife, Nancy, put up a little trailer, drilled a well, and began living in their new environment. Water quality was good and the couple were able to grow barley for the two years necessary to satisfy homesteading requirements. Several years later they platted a portion of the land and created 1/4 and 1/2 acre lots to sell. In 1975 Leland Sandquist bought the first lot which was on Cherokee Road. Other lots quickly sold. Since that time other parts of the property have been platted and sold but some portions of the original section remain undeveloped.

### Identification with the Environment

Residents recognize and identify with the physical features of the land and it's most important natural resource, water. Well water in Cal-Nev-Ari is unusually sweet and plentiful and many respondents spontaneously testified to it's delicious quality.

---

<sup>1</sup> His license number designated him as one of the earliest licensed pilots in the Western United States.

This area is naturally distinguished from surrounding communities because it lies in large valley bounded on the east and west by faults. It's neighbor to the north, Searchlight, was built around hilly granitic intrusions, the margins of which hosted gold ore which could be mined. But the square mile that is Cal-Nev-Ari, 15 miles south of Searchlight, is surrounded by open spaces. The north, east and west sides of the community butt up against federal land managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Because the area has been designated as a Desert Tortoise Sanctuary, BLM won't release more land for development, and the privately owned land to the south remains in it's natural state. As a result, the community of Cal-Nev-Ari is surrounded by the wide open spaces of untouched desert<sup>2</sup>.

The climate and the plants and animals of this Mojave Desert environment are consciously perceived and acknowledged as belonging to the Cal-Nev-Ari life-style. Residents commonly believe that their community is cooler than Laughlin but not as cool as Searchlight: "We won't get snow [as does Searchlight] but we're 15-20 degrees cooler than on the river." Although warmer than Searchlight, the area is believed to be 6 to 7 degrees cooler than Las Vegas. One resident said: "If you like the wind, the climate is cooler than most places in the desert."

Residents seemed to enjoy talking about special aspects of their environment. Here are some quotes:

"In the spring we have beautiful flowers all along the highway. I have a garden out back and I gave away tomatoes all summer. It's home."

"It's peaceful and quiet out here and land values are good. It's a good place to be for those who don't like city living. But some don't like the work... you have to work hard to keep things up [in this environment]."

"This is beautiful, high desert. The aeronautical charts show this to be 2,900 feet, so I call it "high desert." Our house on the taxi-way has a great view of the wild flowers."

"I love it. I like the open area. I'm an outdoor person.. we all are. There is a great sense of freedom out here."

"It's peaceful and safe. It's special."

---

<sup>2</sup> Gas, electricity, phone lines and cable TV are all underground in Cal-Nev-Ari. This lack of obstruction does not go unnoticed by residents. Many specifically pointed out that there are, "no telephone poles" in the community.

### Identification with the Community

Cal-Nev-Arians identify themselves as residents of a community that is special and different from the surrounding communities. When asked where they live they do not mention Searchlight or other communities close by, they say "Cal-Nev-Ari" with a tone that suggests impatience with a dumb question.

This is not to say that everyone living in Cal-Nev-Ari is a permanent resident. Several people who live in the RV park, for example, are planning to be in the community only as long as their jobs require it. Most of these people work at the Viceroy Mine<sup>3</sup> and, although many of them plan to stay for as long as four or five years, eventually they will return to states outside of Nevada where their families reside or where they own property.

That both temporary and permanent residents are self-consciously aware of the existence of community was expressed by prideful comments such as these: "Got our own little community here." "Is Cal-Nev-Ari a separate community? You betcha!" "Cal Nev Ari has it's own zip code, 89039. The Searchlight zip is 89042, so Cal Nev Ari is it's own place."

Cal-Nev-Arians subjectively sense that they belong together. They characterize their community as being friendly, safe and without crime. People from the outside see it that way too. For example, the officer in charge of the U.S. Coast Guard Loran Station on the north side of town said: "Folks at the casino are laid-back. Nothing is critical. They have time. They seem happy. Content. They all know each other and they are friendly."

When asked what kind of a relationship Cal Nev Ari has with Searchlight, Ms. Nancy Kidwell tells these stories:

"Once a few years ago, about '68 or '69, our water pump broke down. I asked "the powers that be" in Searchlight if they could sell us some water. I wanted them to send a water truck down to help us out until we could get the pump fixed. They said no. They had plenty of extra water but they said no. I had to go to Needles, California to get water. It's hard to forget that. After that, we put in an additional well so now we have two pumps and we won't ever be caught in that situation again. Several years later the Searchlight water pump went out and they asked us for water.

---

<sup>3</sup> This is a gold mine west of Searchlight on Nipton Road (Highway 164). Apparently the mine is partly owned or managed by Morrison Knutson.

We sold them a full tank for \$1.00 and OVC<sup>4</sup>. But still, it's hard to forget how they treated us.

"Another time, again in the early '80's we had a mobile home catch fire and we didn't have any fire-fighting equipment to put it out with. We were trying to do it with garden hoses but it was a full-fledged conflagration. So we asked Searchlight to send help. They send a little truck that couldn't do much. They actually had a large pumper that could have put the fire out but they said they needed to keep it in town in case they needed it. They get their fire-fighting stuff from the County and it's provided to them to help whoever needs it in the County. It's not for them to keep to themselves. But they did. So now we have our own fire-fighting equipment. And we share it. When there was a big fire down in Laughlin a while back we sent our pumper down there to help out."

Clearly Cal-Nev-Ari has not had to struggle to demonstrate it's independence as a small community.. but is has had to struggle independently to survive. Once achieved, community resources have consistently been offered for emergency aid of neighboring communities and, these days, there may be a more reciprocated spirit of cooperation. McClintock, the volunteer Fire Chief, says: "We help Searchlight when they need it. We both back each other up for fire and EMT."

Ms. Kidwell further suggests a willingness to be a good neighbor when she says: "These stories don't characterize everyone in Searchlight. Many of those folks are nice. People come here from there all the time because we have good food and because they like to play in the Casino." Then she repeats: "It's hard to forget how they treated us in the early days."

The experience of shared adversity is a unifying force but this community is culturally distinct in several other ways. The unique history and focus on aviation, for example, differentiates Cal-Nev-Ari from nearby settlements and towns. The airstrip and the large percentage of residents who are either pilots or ex-pilots contribute a distinct cultural flavor that promises to grow stronger as the community matures. Most advertising of lots is done in the "General Aviation News," a bi-weekly news letter for flyers, because the Kidwell Airport is a unique selling point for prospective land-owners. Ms. Kidwell likes flyers and wants to encourage them to move to Cal-Nev-Ari. The community has been designed to accommodate small aircraft; roads are 60 feet wide so planes can be taxied from private hangers (usually located next to homes like large garages), to the airport and back.

---

<sup>4</sup> Other valuable consideration.

Not everyone flies, of course. The non-flyers in the community may be either miners, who plan to move when their company "pulls up stakes," or other residents who do not live around the airstrip. These other residents may be retired or they may commute to near-by communities to work. Broadly speaking, there are about three different life-styles in Cal-Nev-Ari, but residents refuse to think of the community as having parts, even though the highway runs through it, making a physical separation. When asked, each respondent insisted that Cal-Nev-Ari is really one big neighborhood.

The feeling of unity could be due to the small population but it is also likely to be related to the relative homogeneity of the citizens. Compared with Searchlight, residents of Cal-Nev-Ari have many similarities. McClintock, the volunteer Fire Chief for Cal-Nev-Ari, pointed out that "Searchlight and Cal-Nev-Ari are different kinds of cities." He went on to explain that, "the fire fighters of both communities get along real well but Searchlight residents have a wider variety of occupations... bigger mix of jobs."

Lou Papac, Chairman of Searchlight Town Board, pointed out another situation that could have a strong affect on how citizens relate to their respective communities: Searchlight has had a zero growth rate lately<sup>5</sup> while Cal-Nev-Ari is growing.. some say at a rate of 10 families per year. Without explaining in detail, Papac said that Searchlight had been experiencing water problems: "The pump is slow and doesn't put out enough water to fuel growth... in the past the National Guard has had to send water when it's gone out." Apparently there has also been a moratorium on building which has slowed things down (related to the Desert Tortoise Sanctuary?).

#### Realization of mutual interests and needs

The people of Cal-Nev-Ari are aware that they share many common interests. One of those interests, possibly related to the relative isolation and lack of entertainment, appears to revolve around the social life at the Casino. Several respondents observed that some residents of Cal-Nev-Ari spend their days drinking at the bar. Undoubtedly, close ties have been formed by these people over the years. One person who was interviewed ventured to comment that, "people who hang out at the bar have their own clique," but not everyone agrees. Some think factions exist between new and old residents because, when newcomers arrive in Cal-Nev-Ari some want to re-create the environment they left behind and longer-term residents resist these changes. The resulting antagonism, if there is any, is mild, and several

---

<sup>5</sup> Searchlight apparently had 5-6,000 people during a mining boom in the early 1900's.

respondents denied the existence of any dissention at all. One can characterize the citizens of Cal-Nev-Ari as friendly without fear of contradiction.

This is not to deny that some people who live in Cal-Nev-Ari are private and keep to themselves. And there are other reasons why some residents are not highly visible. McClintock points out that:

"The younger guys don't have the time to get involved in community things because they work all the time. They do show up for community functions. Us old folks have time. Sometimes it takes me two hours to get home from picking up the mail. I run into someone who needs help with a job.. moving or building something or fixing something.. and I end up helping them out."

"Helping each other out" is a philosophy and a way of life for Cal-Nev-Arians because of their close proximity to each other. Many stories were related about residents helping and assisting each other.. some very minor, such as running errands and watching each other's property, and some having to do with major medical emergencies. In fact, the community has the distinction of having a large percentage of EMT certified persons who volunteer themselves in times of crisis. Their readiness to help obviously transcends individual differences. McClintock says, "When the chips are down people are there. You don't have to love the guy if he'll just come and put the fire out." Another respondent: "If somebody needs help you've got the whole town. There are 19 EMT's in this community so somebody will be there. All volunteer." Another citizen summed it up by saying, "Common interests? SURVIVAL! My neighbor's problem today could be my problem tomorrow." Whatever the reason, these people give help and support to each other. They share and cooperate with each other.

Residents of Cal-Nev-Ari generally know each other personally and have developed a common understanding of the meaning and function of their community. They are quick to express common sentiments and ideas about their community. For example, when asked about close relationships, several respondents talked about how hard it is to see long-time community members die. Many people who live in Cal-Nev-Ari see each other every day so they often get to know each other better than they know their own families. When one of them dies it's a big loss to the community. A member of the volunteer fire fighting crew said: "When someone dies.. when the volunteer ambulance is called out.. it's traumatic for all of us. We prefer auto accidents on the highway because they involve strangers."

The needs of the community are continuing to change as it matures. For example, there are now about 15 children who live



there and there is no place for them to gather. Their presence is the result of the recent trend for new-comers to be younger couples who have picked Cal-Nev-Ari to live because of the short commute to jobs in near-by towns. One can detect an undercurrent of opinion suggesting that a community center be built on the east side of the highway to meet the needs of this new segment in the population. Some respondents suggested that such a facility could also replace the Casino dining room as a place for memorial services and it could be used for parties and to supplement the Fire House for community gatherings and "get-togethers." The process of getting Cal-Nev-Arians interested in the project is currently underway. If the building is eventually erected it will be with the support of the whole community.

In short, Cal-Nev-Ari satisfies resident needs to such an extent that people almost never move out unless their jobs require them to do so. Even then, some respondents expressed an interest in returning to live out their retirement years in the community. McClintock said that, "the local joke is that Cal-Nev-Ari is "God's waiting room".. when they go, they go in a coffin."

There is an underlying feeling of sharing common goals that was elicited when residents were asked about the future of Cal-Nev-Ari. Almost every respondent thought the community would grow. One person said: "It's going to grow. It may double but that would be an awfully lot." The small-town atmosphere is valued by most residents and few people are willing to risk losing that quality. One comment typifies most responses: "People like it here because it's a small town. I don't think it will change that much." There does seem to be a demand for new lots and those being offered near the runway will likely be easy to sell. One pilot explained: "If you do have an airplane it's a big deal to be able to put it in a hanger next to your house."

There is an enigma in the attitudes of residents. Many expressed an interest in flying or just being around airplanes ("I love to hear the droning of a plane over-head"), but when respondents were asked whether there is an emphasis on flying in the community, they uniformly said no. Respondents were also unanimous in the belief that pilots and non-pilots receive equal treatment in the community.

An attitude that is present everywhere and not in the least enigmatic has to do with the emphasis on the quality of life. One couple volunteered that they moved to Cal-Nev-Ari from Boulder City because, "..we like the quiet better." Another family moved from Searchlight because it was too big; they liked the small, intimate nature of Cal-Nev-Ari. It is common to hear residents describe their community with phrases such as: it's quiet and peaceful; you can trust people; it's a calm life.

## A System of Interdependent Relationships

Residents of Cal-Nev-Ari satisfy many needs and living requirements through a system of interdependent relationships. Some of these relationships are demonstrated by the various forms of communication that take place in the community. Daily, non-emergency, messages are simply displayed at the post office for people to read when they come to get their mail. But if someone needs to find help in the form of a person with special skills that person calls Ms. Kidwell. She has about 20 people working for her, some of whom are service people for the casino, market and motel and so forth, but some have special skills in plumbing and electrical work and so forth. Ms. Kidwell serves as an intermediary by putting the homeowner in touch with the person who can be of most help. Some people volunteer their time but if payment is made it is to the worker, not to Ms. Kidwell. Of this custom, McClintock says:

"Members of the community have an amazing variety of expertise. Some are welders, some know about electrical things or construction things.. plus it does us all good to be able to do stuff and to be needed."

Ms. Kidwell elaborates:

"In this community everyone contributes something. People have to have skills to live here. People have to work together. It's not easy, but the benefits are great. Beautiful sunrises and sunsets, clean air, wonderful water, quiet. So, each person has different talents. Right now we need people with crafts."

Sometimes people come in from outside the community to provide various services. Ms. Kidwell explains:

"A woman who lives in Palm Gardens, a little sub-division south of Cal-Nev-Ari at the Laughlin turn-off, comes up to teach line-dancing in the Casino dining room. Other people come in to teach art and different things."

One of the best examples of residents meeting their needs through a system of interdependent relationships has to do with the emergency communications network. Many people carry beepers or cellular phones, which they pay for themselves, so they can be beeped in an emergency. Who does the beeping? The bartender. The bar at the casino is open 24 hours a day and is one of the gathering places for residents. When a call comes in the bartender is responsible for sending out the signal that help is needed. Since everything is voluntary, whoever shows up first

drives the ambulance or fire truck or does whatever is needed.<sup>6</sup>

The way the community acquired the capability of responding to emergencies is perhaps the strongest argument for the independence and self-sufficiency of Cal-Nev-Ari. About five years ago everyone pitched in and helped build a fire station. It took 15 or 20 guys about 6 to 8 months to raise it. One volunteer fire fighter boasted: "We built it ourselves. Not the county. The community did it."

All the money for lumber, concrete and supplies came from community donations and proceeds from community events. One respondent said the County helped by providing a grant for a fire truck. The community also has an ambulance which was acquired with County assistance and the volunteer rescue squad has been trained by the County.

Cal-Nev-Arians have quite a few social functions to raise money to keep all this going. Members of their "work group" (a name used to refer to EMT's and fire fighters), are volunteers but they are in constant need of materials and supplies. The community raises money with deep pit barbecues, spaghetti dinners and rummage sales. Women bake things or bring various items to sell at bazaars which are usually held at the firehouse. One of the most colorful events is the annual Chili Cook-off, a national competition which is held on the weekend following Thanksgiving. Locals help set up booths and make things to sell. The entry fees go to support the fire department.

Issues regarding the running of the fire department are discussed in meetings at the fire house. There are no other community meetings although one resident expressed concern that no one in Cal-Nev-Ari gives the County Commissioners any input before they make decisions that affect them:

"... they control us without our input.. building codes in Las Vegas apply to us.. flood control in Las Vegas applies to us. As it is now as have no direct contact with the Commissioners. We need an advisory board like Searchlight has."

Ms. Kidwell, who owns the remaining salable land, acts much like secondary agencies do in more complex societies<sup>7</sup>. As she

---

<sup>6</sup> Fire Chief McClintock says that the fire-fighting crew has "had to roll" 64 times so far this year.

<sup>7</sup> When communities become large and complex it becomes necessary to get much of the work done through representatives of the people rather than in the more direct face-to-face manner possible in small pioneer communities. Secondary agencies have a

determines where new roads will be built and how the settlement will be extended she acts for the presumed welfare of the community as a whole. Many respondents believe that she advances certain common community goals by continuing the theme of rural development around a desert air-strip. Ms. Kidwell and the towns-people appear to share cultural values, at least to the extent that they agree on what will be desirable in the Cal-Nev-Arian environment.

### Conclusion

The history and development of Cal-Nev-Ari illustrates the genesis of community life. Beginning as a desert residence for one couple, the area has now become home to many families whose daily life depends on a network of interdependent relationships with each other. As the area grew problems presented themselves such as the need for water and the capability for effective emergency response. Solutions required mutual cooperation and community solidarity, foundations of community life. As the population continues to increase, still further agreements will become necessary, such as the decision about whether and how to build a community center. The town will grow and continue to occupy more space and the way that space is organized will partly be a consequence of direct, face-to-face conference and agreement among residents.

---

mandate to advance certain common ends for community members.

## APPENDIX A

### Methodology

The study was conducted during an eight day period from December 8, 1993 to December 15, 1993. Because little was known about the area of interest, the first few steps involved finding a map and conducting a computer search for articles in the local papers. Nothing had been printed about Cal-Nev-Ari in either the Las Vegas Review Journal or the Las Vegas Sun during the last several years.

An on-site visit was made and personal in-depth interviews were conducted with eight towns-people, including Ms. Kidwell, one of the original settlers and the largest property owner. An open-ended format was used to identify main themes and issues. With the exception of Ms. Kidwell, who was deliberately sought out for interview, the respondents were chosen by convenience; one woman was raking leaves in her yard, three were working at jobs where they served the public and the others were patrons at the local coffee shop.

All information was organized and assessed and a telephone questionnaire was developed (see Appendix A). Interviews of a more structured nature were conducted over the telephone but the questionnaire was continuously modified and improved and respondents were encouraged to volunteer their thoughts and feelings about community life in Cal-Nev-Ari.

Material was topically organized and areas of agreement and disagreement and ambiguities were identified. Further interviews were conducted over the telephone until material began to be repetitive. When new information was no longer forthcoming, the data were assembled and analyzed.

## APPENDIX B

### Phone Questionnaire for Cal-Nev-Ari

1. Where do you consider your residence to be?
2. How long have you lived in Cal-Nev-Ari?
3. Why did you move there?
4. Where are you from?
5. What draws people to Cal-Nev-Ari?
6. Do people ever move away?
  - a. Why?
7. What are the problems that people have to deal with to live there?
8. Can you give me an example of:
  - a. Residents working together to do something?
  - b. Helping each other?
  - c. Offering sharing and support?
  - d. Showing feelings of common interests and goals?
9. How do you feel about the particular location of your community.. out in the middle of a large desert basin?
10. Do you think you share any political views with your neighbors?

11. Do you think you need a community center?
12. Why?
13. Do you fly?
14. Is there an emphasis on flying in the community?
15. Are pilots treated different than non-pilots?
16. Ms. Kidwell makes a lot of decisions that affect the community.. where roads will be and how new areas will be developed and so on..
  - a. Do you think she acts in the interest of the community as a whole or just in her own self-interest?
  - b. Do you think she has the same basic values as you do?
  - c. Would Cal-Nev-Ari survive without Nancy Kidwell?
17. What is the future of Cal-Nev-Ari?

## APPENDIX C

### Exhibits





## CAL-NEV-ARI CASINO

Fly In, Drive In, Jump In!



**Cal\*Nev\*Ari**  
\* Casino \*

CAL-NEV-ARI, NEV. 89039  
(702) 297-9289

KIDWELL AIRPORT  
(702) 297-1228

### CAL-NEV-ARI CASINO

Hwy. 95, Cal Nev-Ari, Nevada 89046  
Phone (702) 297-9289

"Fly In, Drive In, Jump In"

Liberal Slots, "21" Bar, Restaurant, Coffee Shop, Kidwell  
Airport, Exxon 80/87 - 100/130 fuel, RV Park, Laundromat,  
Mobile Home Park, Service Station with Diesel Fuel, U.S.  
Post Office

FLY IN - DRIVE IN  
ON HWY 95  
\* Casino \*  
Cal\*Nev\*Ari  
Kidwell's  
Tel. (702) 297-9289  
Kidwell's  
Cal\*Nev\*Ari  
\* Casino \*  
ON HWY. 95  
FLY IN - DRIVE IN

### "21" Slots Bar

Coffee Shop  
Dining Room  
5,300' Lighted Runway  
80 - 100 Aviation Fuel  
Service Station  
Mobile Home Park  
Laundromat  
RV Park  
Overnighters Welcome  
Market

FLY IN - DRIVE IN  
**Cal\*Nev\*Ari**  
\* Casino \*  
*Nancy Kidwell, Owner*

KIDWELL AIRPORT  
(702) 297-1228

CAL-NEV-ARI, NEV 89039  
PH (702) 297-9289  
FAX (702) 297-1094